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New bird host records for *Icosta minor* (Bigot) (Diptera: Hippoboscidae) from Rhodesia

by R. P. Borrett

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On 14.4.68 a hippoboscid fly was caught on a Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*, collected near Salisbury in connection with my current life-history studies of the African pipits; on 5.1.69 another such fly was taken from a Great Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*, netted during ringing operations at my home in Salisbury. Richard's Pipit is a common resident species in Mashonaland, whilst the Great Reed Warbler is a not uncommon summer visitor from October to March.

The two flies were forwarded to Dr. F. Zumpt, Department of Entomology, South African Institute for Medical Research, Johannesburg, who identified both specimens as *Icosta (Ornithoponus) minor* (Bigot, 1858).

This fly has long been known as *Lynchbia minor*, but recently Maa (1969) re-arranged its systematic position. Maa (1964, p. 89) records it (as *Lynchbia minor*) from *Anthus* sp. from the Congo; the record from *A. novaeseelandiae* provides further evidence that pipits may be among its hosts. There are no previous records of it from the genus *Acrocephalus*, though a close relative, *Icosta (Ornithoponus) sensilis* Maa, has been recorded from *A. arundinaceus* in south-east Asia (Maa, 1969).

Maa (1969) gives the distribution of *I. minor* as "Entire Ethiopian Region and Mediterranean Basin . . . Obviously breeding on Passeriformes, with stray records from Cuculi- and Coraciiformes". Maa (1964, 1969) and Zumpt (1966) provide lists of various hosts, mostly passerine, but some non-passerine, from which *I. minor* has been recorded. It will undoubtedly be encountered on many more species in the future.

I am grateful to Dr. Zumpt for identifying this fly, and also to Mr. J. A. Ledger, Entomology Department, S.A.I.M.R., for providing references to the entomological literature.

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